

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 200800Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL SHIRAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0099
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SHIRAZ 0026

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ, KU, UR
SUBJ: IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH IRAN, KUWAIT AND THE USSR: VIEW
OF SHIRAZ

1. THE CHIEF OF SAVAK IN KHUZISTAN PROVINCE FEBRUARY 10 SAID THAT RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ARE REASONABLY GOOD. IRANIAN PILGRIMS ARE ALLOWED TO VISIT SHIA HOLY PLACES, ALTHOUGH THEIR TRAVEL IS STRICTLY SUPERVISED BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES AND IS ALWAYS ON A GROUP BASIS. IRAQ HAS REOPENED ITS CONSULATE IN KHORRAMSHAHR AND IRAQIS ARE FREE TO VISIT IRAN IF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT PERMITS THEM. THE ONLY IRRITANT, HE SAID, WAS THE BASRA RADIO'S INSISTENCE ON REFERRING TO THE PERSIAN GULF AS THE ARABIAN GULF. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT RADIO BAGHDAD, TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, HAS AVOIDED SUCH PROVOCATIVE TERMINOLOGY, PRESUMABLY THEREBY REFLECTING THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

2. HE ADDED THAT RADIO BAGHDAD HAS NOT BEEN SO SENSITIVE ABOUT KUWAIT, FREQUENTLY BROADCASTING DENUNCIATIONS OF THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT AND ATTACKING ITS POLICIES. HE SAID THAT THESE ATTACKS APPARENTLY ARE RELATED TO IRAQ'S
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CLAIM TO THE ISLANDS OF BUBIYAN AND WARBAH. THESE ISLANDS, GUARDING THE APPROACHES TO UMM QASR, IN KUWAITI HANDS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEAL SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE PORT, HE SAID.

3. IRAN, HE ADDED, HAS NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO FEAR FROM IRAQ ITSELF. "WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM," HE SAID. HE

QUICKLY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN IRAQ WAS ANOTHER MATTER. HE INDICATED THAT THE SHIFT IN IRANIAN POLICY TOWARD IRAQ LAST YEAR IN SIGNIFICANT MEASURE REFLECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCLUSION THAT IS BEST HOPE OF LIMITING THE THREAT POSED BY SOVIET INFLUENCE IN BAGHDAD LAY NOT IN CONFRONTATION BUT IN IMPROVED RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO MEASURE DEFINITELY THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW POLICY, BUT TO DATE THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN PROMISING.

TOMSETH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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